

SHOT IN HIS HOME

ALL BATESBURG WONDERS WHO
PULLED TRIGGER

MYSTERIOUS SILENCE

**J. Milton Hite Goes to His Home for
Supper and is Soon Afterwards
Found Wounded—Telephone Line-
man and Mrs. Hite Are in Jail
Awaiting Investigation.**

Mystery shrouds the shooting of J. Milton Hite, of Batesburg, which occurred Saturday night in the Hite home, and in the presence of Mrs. Hite and her eight-year-old daughter. The wound may prove fatal, for the doctors at Augusta, where Mr. Hite was carried, say he has a meagre chance to live. Walter E. Gurganus is held charged with the shooting.

According to information obtainable, Mr. Hite left his work a little before 7 o'clock Saturday night to go to his home for supper and upon arrival there, it is said, he found Gurganus in the hall and his wife and little daughter in the bedroom. It is believed that a quarrel followed and that Mr. Hite ordered the stranger to leave, and that during a scuffle with Gurganus the pistol was fired. Sheriff Miller, who made a thorough investigation, refused to divulge what he terms as the inside story, saying that he would hold it until the proper time.

Gurganus was arrested Saturday at the home of Mr. Hite soon after the shooting by Chief of Police Darby of Batesburg. An automobile was secured and Gurganus was brought to the Lexington jail, where he was placed behind the bars. Chief Darby stated that he chose a circuitous route in order to be sure that no harm would be done his prisoner, the feeling at Batesburg being strong against the man.

Mrs. Ella Delle Hite, wife of the wounded man, was arrested at her home by Sheriff Miller Tuesday and is now resting behind the bars of the Lexington county jail. She was arrested on a warrant sworn out before Magistrate A. H. Blease by John G. Darby, chief of police of Batesburg, in which she is charged with being an accessory to the shooting. The affidavit sets out:

That on information and belief at Batesburg, Lexington County, State of South Carolina, on the 6th day of December, 1913, one Ella Delle Hite did unlawfully assist, aid, abet and procure one Walter E. Gurganus, without just cause or provocation, to violently assault, shoot, penetrate and wound one J. Milton Hite, with intent, him, the said J. Milton Hite, to kill and murder, said aiding, abetting, assisting and procuring being against the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State.

Mrs. Hite refused to be interviewed after reaching the jail, telling Sheriff Miller that she would not make a statement now, but in a few days she would be pleased to talk.

Gurganus, who is charged with the shooting, is occupying a cell on the upper floor of the jail, while Mrs. Hite occupies a lower cell just to the right of the cell occupied by the young man. Carrying out the instructions of Solicitor George B. Timmerman, who accompanied Sheriff Miller to Batesburg, Mrs. Hite and Gurganus will not be allowed to talk to each other. A close guard will be placed around the jail during the day in order that no message may pass between the two.

Mrs. Hite showed no visible signs of emotion. She took her arrest calmly, it is said, and the outcome of her husband's injuries will be awaited before any attempt is made to secure bond for either Mrs. Hite or Gurganus. Mrs. Hite is a typical brunette, very attractive in personality. She was becomingly dressed in a blue coat suit with a hat to match.

The shooting for which Gurganus and Mrs. Hite are being held occurred in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hite, at Batesburg, on Saturday night about 7 o'clock. Mr. Hite left his work at the store of L. D. Cullum to go to supper, a little before 7 o'clock, and a few minutes later a pistol shot rang out. Nearby neighbors rushed to the home only to find Hite with a pistol wound in the lower part of a neck.

Gurganus and Mrs. Hite were found in the home together, it is said, Mrs. Hite being at the telephone trying to get a doctor when the first person arrived. The weapon with which the wound was inflicted was, it is alleged, the property of Mr. Hite and has never been found.

When seen at the county jail Sunday morning, which was two days prior to the arrest of Mrs. Hite, Gurganus refused to make a statement further than to say that the shooting was purely an accident. He said also that he did not do the shooting; that there was no one in the room at the time except himself and Mr. and Mrs. Hite.

FUGITIVE SURRENDERS.

**Man Charged With Killing Negro
Will Stand Trial.**

Sullivan Hughes, a white man, who has been a fugitive from justice for nearly six years, returned to Spartanburg Saturday and surrendered to Sheriff W. J. White. He was accompanied by his father, Hughes is charged with killing a negro, John Franklin, in J. C. Irwin's store at Enoree on February 22, 1908, after a quarrel, in which Franklin is said to have called him a liar. Hughes fled after the shooting and has remained in hiding since. He was overcome with homesickness and decided to return and stand trial. He was committed to jail.

Burned to Death.

Essie May Doggett, of Newberry, was burned to death Monday afternoon. Her parents, while in the yard heard her scream and found her clothes afire.

Town Swept by Fire.

Practically the entire business section of the town of Sherrill, 20 miles north of Pine Bluff, Ark., was destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at \$50,000.

ALLOWED NO ARMS

IMPORTATION INTO IRELAND IS
NOW PROHIBITED.

**Takes First Step Towards Concilia-
tion With Ulster, Favoring Car-
son's Plan.**

The British cabinet, by a royal proclamation promulgated Friday night prohibiting the importation of arms and ammunition into Ireland, for the first time grasped the nettle of the revolution in Ulster, which it hitherto had ignored, although the followers of Sir Edward Carson for months have been advertising their military preparations in every possible way and daring interference with them.

Almost at the time of publication of the proclamation Premier Asquith made the longest step towards the conciliation of the Ulsterites that the government has taken by announcing his acceptance of the principles of a basis of agreement with Sir Edward Carson suggested in his last speech. These principles are: First, that the settlement must not be humiliating or degrading to Ulster; second, Ulster's treatment must not be different or exceptional from that meted out to the other parts of the United Kingdom; third, Ulster must retain full protection of the Imperial Parliament; fourth, the home rule bill must not be such as to lead to ultimate separation of Ulster from Great Britain.

Thus the government extends to the signers of the Ulster covenant the olive branch. The proclamation prohibiting the importation of arms and ammunition into Ireland, which King George signed at a meeting of the Privy Council Thursday, and which Friday was published in the Royal Gazette, was milder than rumors had anticipated. It would be, instead of reviewing the Irish Crimes Act it invoked the Customs Consolidation Act of 1875.

Premier Asquith's pronouncement was made, as many of his most important declarations on British politics have been, in an after-dinner speech. The premier was the guest of honor of the Reform Club at Manchester. It was in this same city and on a similar occasion that Sir Edward Carson's overtures were made, so that it would appear that the negotiations for a settlement of the Irish controversy were taking the course of informal public debate.

Dealing with Sir Edward Carson's basis of settlement categorically, Premier Asquith said he was sure Sir Edward must agree that the settlement that there could be no settlement worthy the name that would be humiliating or degrading to those for whom Sir Edward spoke should apply to all sections of the Irish people. On the second point Mr. Asquith said he supposed Sir Edward referred to what formerly was called "home rule all round." Ireland's case, he added, was a case of urgency and must come first. It could not be delayed until the government has gone through the complicated process of adopting the principle of home rule to all the different parts of the United Kingdom.

The premier said he agreed there must be no ultimate separation of Ireland from Great Britain. The real and effective authority, supreme and unquestionable, he said, must be retained by the Imperial Parliament. Mr. Asquith's speech comes at an hour when the newspapers of both parties considered that attempts at a settlement had reached the stage of deadlock. If the compromise is cemented the agitation over the army, which has grown bitter, will be one of the strongest reasons for Sir Edward Carson and several prominent Unionists, notably Lord Lansdowne and Andrew Bonar Law. In speeches suggested that the officers should resign and the soldiers refuse to fire if ordered to fight fellow Protestants.

LOSE LIVES HUNTING.

**This Season's Death List Breaks All
Records.**

The hunting season, ending the past week, cost 135 lives in 21 states. In addition, 140 persons were injured, a number of them fatally. Wisconsin was the chief sufferer of the season, with a total of 29 dead and 27 injured. Michigan was next with 28 dead and 16 injured. New York was third with 19 dead and one injured.

The careless handling of weapons was the chief cause of death. Thirty-seven persons lost their lives at their own hands. Twenty-four others shot themselves, but escaped with lesser injuries. The careless traveling companion was held responsible for 24 deaths and one injury. The man who shoots everything he sees moving was held responsible for 17 deaths and ten injuries. Sixteen hunters were downed while searching for game.

The killing of 5,130 deer in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts cost the lives of 13 persons and more or less serious injury to 72 others. Of the 11 persons killed in Maine, four were mistaken for deer and shot by other hunters.

A total of 7,500 deer fell before the onslaught of shooters in Minnesota, according to an estimate made by A. R. Rider, of the State Game and Fish commission. It was the best season for shooting the animals in a decade, despite the absence of snow in the northern woods. Eight hunters were killed and two injured. Most of the fatalities were due to men being taken for deer, though a majority of the hunters wore red caps.

No one was killed during the Massachusetts open week on deer, but eight were injured, one hunter being shot as he was taking a deer out of the woods on his shoulders. Deer seemed to have been more plentiful in Massachusetts than in other parts of New England, 1,580 animals being killed in a season of one week's duration.

Negroes Are Held.

While Harry and Andrew Black, negroes, of St. Louis, who Saturday shot and killed policemen, in St. Charles, were held, the citizens expressed their feelings so strongly that the authorities took every precaution to prevent a clash between the races.

CONDEMNED TO DIE

SLAYER OF BARNWELL MERCHANT
FACES DEATH

TO DIE BEFORE XMAS

**Trial at Barnwell Results in Con-
viction of Negro, Scott Madison—Tes-
timony Clearly Against Him and
Two Said He Told Them of Killing
a White Man.**

Scott Madison, colored, will pay the death penalty for the murder of Mr. E. Peyton Best in Barnwell on the night of December 8, between Friday, December 19, and Monday, December 22, inclusive. Such was the sentence of Judge Gage late Monday afternoon, after the jury had brought in a verdict of guilty of murder as to Madison, and guilty of assault and battery as to Gilbert Miller, also colored.

The testimony of the case seemed to show conclusively that Madison was the guilty party, although he denied having committed the crime. A summary of the testimony is given below. Ed Durant, a negro, who was the first witness, testified that Mr. Best pushed Miller, who was standing in the door of the restaurant, out of his way when he left the building, and that Miller then threw a bottle at him and ran. According to the testimony, Mr. Best turned and asked Scott Madison who hit him, the defendant replying that the man that hit him was the one running down the street. Mr. Best then turned to walk away and the fatal shot was fired.

The testimony of Rufus James, Mitchell Stroy and Julius Williams, the proprietors of the restaurant and who were in the main the statements made by Durant.

Major R. Boyd Cole testified to finding a pistol under the depot, upon information given by Andrew Simms, the same being, it was alleged, the one with which the murder was committed.

Dr. R. C. Kirkland testified as to the nature of the gunshot wound on the body of Mr. Best—that the bullet entered from the back and passed entirely through the body.

Mr. Alva Mellett, the undertaker, testified that there was a small bruise behind the left ear of the dead man, which could have been caused by a blow from a bottle.

Mr. Vince Dunbar, who was standing in the doorway of Kears's pool room at the time of the tragedy, testified to having seen the smoke from the pistol immediately after the firing of the two shots; that Mr. Best staggered toward him and Mr. A. M. Harden, exclaiming as he fell, "Boys, I'm shot." That deceased died immediately thereafter.

Mr. A. M. Harden, who was standing by Mr. Dunbar at the time of the shooting, testified to having seen the flash of the pistol in front of the negro restaurant and that he caught Mr. Best in his arms as deceased was falling.

Andrew Sims, a negro section hand, testified that Scott Madison had attempted to buy his pistol—a .38-calibre, left-hand Wheeler—from him on the afternoon of the shooting; that he refused to let the defendant have it and that it was later stolen from his trunk, presumably by Madison returned the pistol and said that he had killed a white man; that witness became frightened and hid the pistol under the A. C. L. freight depot.

Albert Cane, colored, testified that a negro threw a bottle at Mr. Best, who turned and asked who hit him. No one replied, and deceased then turned and started up the street when a negro snapped a pistol at him three times. Another negro, he said, then fired the shots, one of which hit Mr. Best in the back. Witness could not identify the assailants, who were strangers.

Scott Madison is from Remini. He was put upon the stand in his own defence, and told a story entirely at variance with the testimony of the witness for the State. So unsupportable was his testimony, that he got badly mixed in the telling and no weight was given to it whatever. He denied doing the killing, but said that it was done with the gun he had gotten from Andrew Simms. He accused one Seaman Moore of the crime.

Gilbert Miller testified in his own behalf, and apparently told a straightforward story, impressing his hearers with the truth of his statements. He admitted buying a bottle of whiskey in the restaurant; stated that Mr. Best had pushed him out of the way, and that he had hit the dead man with a bottle, after which he ran away, and that he was quite a good distance off when the shots were fired. He later met Madison, who, he said, admitted having shot a white man.

Two negro women and Seaman Moore were put on the witness stand, but they denied knowing anything connected with the tragedy.

This completed the case. The jury was out about twenty minutes, returning the verdict given above. Miller was sentenced to thirty days on the chain gang. After sentence had been passed Madison asked permission to speak, and made several requests as to the disposition of his body, the collection of some money owing to him, and that he be allowed to thank his friends for what they had done. The defendants were then remanded to jail.

Two Lose Lives.

Mrs. Fred Krause, of Chattanooga, was drowned, her niece, Rosa Wilson, aged 8, was burned to death and several others were injured late Sunday when a pleasure launch was burned at Hale's bar on the Tennessee river.

Confederate Reunion.

Gen. Bennett H. Young, commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans, has named April 29, 20 and May 1 as the official days of the 1914 reunion of the organization.

Yeggmen in Georgia.

The post office safe at Register, Ga., was blown open by yeggmen Monday night. They secured \$400 in cash.

GINNINGS AHEAD

THIS YEAR SHOWS GAIN OVER
LAST YEAR'S REPORT.

**According to Government Report
Amount Prepared for Market to
December 1 is 12,081,100.**

The sixth cotton ginning report of the census bureau for the season, issued Monday morning, announced that 12,081,100 bales of cotton, counting round as half bales, of the growth of 1913 had been ginned prior to December 1, to which date during the past seven years the ginning average 83.2 per cent. of the entire crop. Last year to December 1 there had been ginned 11,854,541 bales, or 87.9 per cent. of the entire crop; in 1911 to that date 12,816,897 bales, or 82.4 per cent., and in 1908 to that date 11,008,661 bales, or 84.1 per cent.

Included in the ginnings were 85,760 round bales, compared with 73,030 round bales last year, 87,996 round bales in 1911, 101,718 round bales in 1910, and 134,393 round bales in 1909.

The number of sea island cotton bales included were 61,516, compared with 51,275 bales last year, 67,656 bales in 1911, 77,591 bales in 1909, and 68,396 bales in 1908.

Ginnings prior to December 1, by states, with comparisons for last year and of the years and the percentage of the entire crop ginned prior to that date in those years follow:

Alabama.		
Year.	Ginnings.	Pct.
1913.....	1,365,888	...
1912.....	1,161,482	87.4
1911.....	1,436,076	84.7
1908.....	1,175,629	83.3
Arkansas.		
1913.....	789,038	...
1912.....	659,505	85.5
1911.....	680,434	74.9
1908.....	776,461	78.0
Florida.		
1913.....	58,490	...
1912.....	48,630	82.7
1911.....	74,056	78.4
1908.....	58,603	83.0
Georgia.		
1913.....	2,064,792	...
1912.....	1,564,428	86.3
1911.....	2,339,254	83.7
1908.....	1,539,657	88.0
Louisiana.		
1913.....	340,086	...
1912.....	343,323	91.6
1911.....	313,624	82.4
1908.....	394,918	84.6
Mississippi.		
1913.....	955,588	...
1912.....	817,707	81.4
1911.....	892,495	76.3
1908.....	1,297,677	80.1
North Carolina.		
1913.....	622,746	...
1912.....	754,569	83.3
1911.....	828,680	73.6
1908.....	554,246	81.1
Oklahoma.		
1913.....	761,439	...
1912.....	869,278	86.5
1911.....	789,889	77.1
1908.....	865,584	91.5
South Carolina.		
1913.....	1,161,437	...
1912.....	1,041,639	85.1
1911.....	1,310,963	77.5
1908.....	1,051,550	86.5
Tennessee.		
1913.....	304,502	...
1912.....	208,721	78.0
1911.....	319,979	74.4
1908.....	279,654	83.7
Texas.		
1913.....	3,571,331	...
1912.....	4,314,821	92.9
1911.....	3,747,932	91.3
1908.....	3,193,096	88.0
Other States.		
1913.....	85,763	...
1912.....	70,388	78.1
1911.....	89,245	64.2
1908.....	56,016	76.6
The ginnings of sea island cotton.		
prior to December 1, by states, fol-		
Year.	Fla.	Ca. S.C.
1913.....	23,207	34,815 4,496
1912.....	17,826	29,756 3,693
1911.....	32,250	51,496 3,180
1909.....	25,905	43,864 3,522
1908.....	27,907	32,140 8,349